Implementation of CAS

2035. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been approached by the cable operators to reconsider implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what about the pay channel factors; and

(d) to what extent Government are prepared to accede the request of the cable operators while protecting the interests of the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the Joint Memorandum dated 30th June, 2004, submitted to the Prime Minister by the Cable Operators' Federation of India (COUF), National Cable Television Association (NCTA) and the Cable Network Association (NCA) request has, *inter alia,* been made for the implementation of CAS as per the orders of the Madras High Court and to ensure that pay channels are not sold as bouquets and individual channel choice is enabled to the subscribers. Since the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is seized of these issues, the same has been forwarded to it for appropriate further follow-up action in this regard.

Special Benches of High Courts

2036. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Benches of High Courts proposed to be set up in various States, during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the locations thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for the purpose; and

(d) the total amount earmarked, sanctioned and spent under the scheme?